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SOURCE Hua Sheng Pao.

AUSTERITY PROGRAM IN NORTH  
AND NORTHEAST CHINA

Pei-p'ing -- At a meeting of the leaders of all administrative units (gh-men) of the North China People's Government to study conditions of government operations, a number of defective conditions which emphasize the necessity for the austerity program were pointed out.

There is already an apparent, and in some instances shocking, surplus of administrative personnel in the government and state-operated enterprises. In some of these the number of administrative personnel equals that of production personnel.

In some educational institutions the number of teachers and workers exceeds the number of students.

Since moving to Pei-p'ing, the government has been unable to cope with the needs of the city. Even though all North China is now liberated, the government has been unable as yet to meet the combined needs of the war front and the reconstruction requirements in North China.

A program of austerity is thus called for, a return, indeed, to the former simplicity and ability to endure hardship that characterized the government in the days when it existed in a purely rural environment. Personnel in government must be employed strictly according to needs and budgets. The meeting called for rigid enforcement of the austerity program.

The drought and insect plague experienced in the area during the 1949 crop season has raised serious problems of food supply.

The Ministry of Finance and Economics called for improvement in the utilization of equipment. The need for this was agreed to by the heads of all departments.

The conference recommended the dissolution of agencies whose work was completed, amalgamation of those with similar functions, and transfer of some to local governments. Careful, businesslike administration should be introduced into all agencies and all should economize in men and equipment with a view to self-support wherever possible.

- 1 -

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All state-operated enterprises must increase production at the same time that they reduce costs.

In the employment of old or new cadres, the attitude of these cadres toward their responsibilities should be considered an important criterion of usefulness. These cadres should be profitably employed in increasing production.

Retrenchment plans should not be undertaken blindly. Unless they give promise of real results they should not be undertaken. In some cases it may be wise to increase personnel for increased effectiveness.

Certain specific economy measures were recommended, such as cutting all lights to 25 watts in offices and to 10 - 15 watts in dormitories. Economy in printing, use of water, auto expenses, bicycle expenses, etc., was called for. A proportion of the cost for all these items should be prorated and billed to the departments concerned.

Some success in economy drives already undertaken was reported.

The Pei-p'ing Electric Light Company, a branch of the North Hopeh Electric Company, has issued suggestions for saving electricity in homes, offices, dormitories, stores, and factories in order to leave more current for production machines.

The officials have set up the following rules for use of electricity in government enterprises.

1. Reward savers of electricity.
2. Warn, then fine those who waste electricity.
3. All supervisors should check on the use of electricity.
4. Charge extra electricity in dormitories to those who live there.
5. Post the monthly electricity account in a public place.

Cheng-ting -- Students of the Cheng-ting (Shih-chia-chuang) branch of the North China University have donated 12,320 pounds of rice, secured by reducing their daily consumption, to relieve citizens of the areas suffering from the drought.

From these various reports from North China it is apparent that the austerity idea is meeting with approval by all classes.

Shen-yang -- Authorities in the Northeast have issued orders to all workers to cut down on waste in order to permit real progress in production.

Five wasteful practices are cited:

1. Materials are wasted by lack of planning and carelessness in selection of sizes and cuts. Big pieces are chosen and cut down instead of choosing materials of the right size. Operators think only of the present, with no regard for the future or for others or the good of the country. Unsuitable materials are stock-piled. Inventories are not used up. Hoarding is practiced.
2. Funds are wasted through misappropriation, misuse, and failure to get value received for money spent.
3. To meet competition in production, quantity alone is stressed without attention to quality.

- 2 -

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4. Labor potentialities are wasted by excessive hours of work and overuse of apprentices. Country methods are against the use of personnel and workers. The peasant mentality is expressed in the industries. Lack of skill in management, laziness, and conservatism are apparent.

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- 3 -

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